

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.-12. (canceled).

13. (currently amended) An isolated or purified antibody that specifically binds an epitope consisting of residues 1-12 of SEQ ID NO:18~~specific to human prostacyclin synthase produced by using, as an immunogen, a polypeptide comprising an isolated or purified whole or part having immunological activity of an amino acid sequence of a human prostacyclin synthase substantially depicted in SEQ ID NO: 18.~~

14. (currently amended) The antibody according to claim 13, wherein said antibody~~which is a monoclonal antibody.~~

15. (currently amended) The antibody according to claim 14, wherein said antibody~~which is a purified IgG fraction.~~

16. (currently amended) The antibody according to claim 13, wherein said antibody~~which is a polyclonal antibody.~~

17. (currently amended) ~~The~~An antibody according to claim 13, wherein said antibody specifically binds to a the polypeptide comprising said epitope~~comprises an amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO: 18.~~

18. (currently amended) The antibody according to claim 17, wherein said antibody~~which is a monoclonal antibody.~~

19. (currently amended) The antibody according to claim 18, wherein said antibody
~~which~~ is a purified IgG fraction.

20. (currently amended) The antibody according to claim 17, wherein said antibody
~~which~~ is a polyclonal antibody.

21. (new) The antibody according to claim 13, wherein said antibody binds to human
prostacyclin synthase and does not bind to bovine prostacyclin synthase.

22. (new) An isolated or purified antibody that specifically binds an epitope
consisting of residues 1-12 of SEQ ID NO:18, said antibody produced using an immunogen
comprising a polypeptide, wherein said polypeptide comprises residues 1-12 of SEQ ID NO:18.

23. (new) The antibody of claim 22, wherein said polypeptide consists of residues 1-
12 of SEQ ID NO:18.

24. (new) The antibody of claim 22, wherein said immunogen further comprises
complete Freund's adjuvant or keyhole limpet hemocyanin.

25. (new) A method for producing an antibody that specifically binds an epitope
consisting of residues 1-12 of SEQ ID NO:18, comprising;

(a) administering an immunogen comprising a polypeptide to an animal, wherein
said polypeptide comprises residues 1-12 of SEQ ID NO:18, and

(b) isolating an antibody from said animal of (a) that specifically binds an epitope
consisting of residues 1-12 of SEQ ID NO:18.

26. (new) The method according to claim 25, wherein said polypeptide consists of
residues 1-12 of SEQ ID NO:18.

27. (new) The method according to claim 25, wherein said immunogen further comprises complete Freund's adjuvant or keyhole limpet hemocyanin.

28. (new) The method according to claim 25, wherein said antibody has the following properties (A) and (B):

(A) specifically binds human prostacyclin synthase, and

(B) does not bind bovine prostacyclin synthase.

29. (new) The method according to claim 25, wherein said antibody specifically binds human prostacyclin synthase alone.